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SUBJECT: RUSSIA'S DISSONANT HARMONY IN THE CHORUS ON IRAN

REF: STATE 095073

Classified By: Acting Political Minister Counselor David Kostelancik.  
Reason: 1.4 (b), (d).

11. (S) We delivered reftel points to Maxim Baranov, Head of the Iranian Desk in the MFA's Second Asia division. He indicated that he would pass the message to the relevant offices within the MFA as well as those attending the upcoming UNGA meetings. Baranov informed us that he planned to attend the meeting in New York as part of DFM Ryabkov's delegation.

12. (S) Baranov stated that Russia did not contest Iran's right to a peaceful nuclear program; however, this right also brought obligations. Russia saw several positive elements in the Iranian response, including a number of potential areas of discussion. Sharing his personal view, Baranov argued that the U.S. needed to look beyond the simple message in the response and see that it indicated a readiness for dialogue on a range of issues, including, but not limited to, the nuclear program.  
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